

Dean, Jr. et al.
Amendment and Response
Serial No. 09/460,552

5. (amended) A ferrule according to Claim 1, said parting line comprising a ledge.

A2 6. (amended) A ferrule according to Claim 1, said ferrule comprising multiple bores and defining a multifiber ferrule.

Cancel claims ~~7-16~~ without prejudice.

Dean, Jr. et al.
Amendment and Response
Serial No. 09/460,552

Kindly add new claims 17-20 as follows:

17. (new) A ferrule comprising:
at least one optical fiber bore; and
first and second ferrule body portions joined along a parting
line, said first ferrule body portion having a first width and
said second ferrule body portion having a second width that is
smaller than the first width by at least about 50 microns, the
width of said first ferrule body portion is defined to within a
first tolerance, and the width of said second ferrule body portion
is defined to within a second tolerance that is larger than the
first tolerance.

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18. (new) A ferrule comprising:
at least one optical fiber bore extending from a front surface
to a rear surface of said ferrule;
a shaft portion defining exterior surfaces of said ferrule,
said exterior surfaces at least partially extending between
said front and rear surfaces; and
a width transition, said width transition interposed between
said exterior surfaces of said ferrule shaft portion, said
width transition comprising a width offset.

Dean, Jr. et al.
Amendment and Response
Serial No. 09/460,552

19. A ferrule comprising:

at least one optical fiber bore extending from a front surface to a rear surface of said ferrule;

a shaft portion, said shaft portion comprising at least two exterior surfaces extending at least partially between said front surface and said rear surface, said at least two exterior surfaces comprising respective widths, the width of one of said surfaces being defined to within a first tolerance, and the width of the other of said at least two surfaces being defined to within a second tolerance that is larger than the first tolerance.

20. (new) A ferrule comprising:

at least one optical fiber bore extending from a front surface to a rear surface of said ferrule; and

monolithically formed first and second body portions, an exterior surface of the first body portion defined to within a first tolerance, and an exterior surface of the second body portion defined to within a second tolerance that is larger than the first tolerance.